

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence

Air Force Perspective on VA-DoD Sharing



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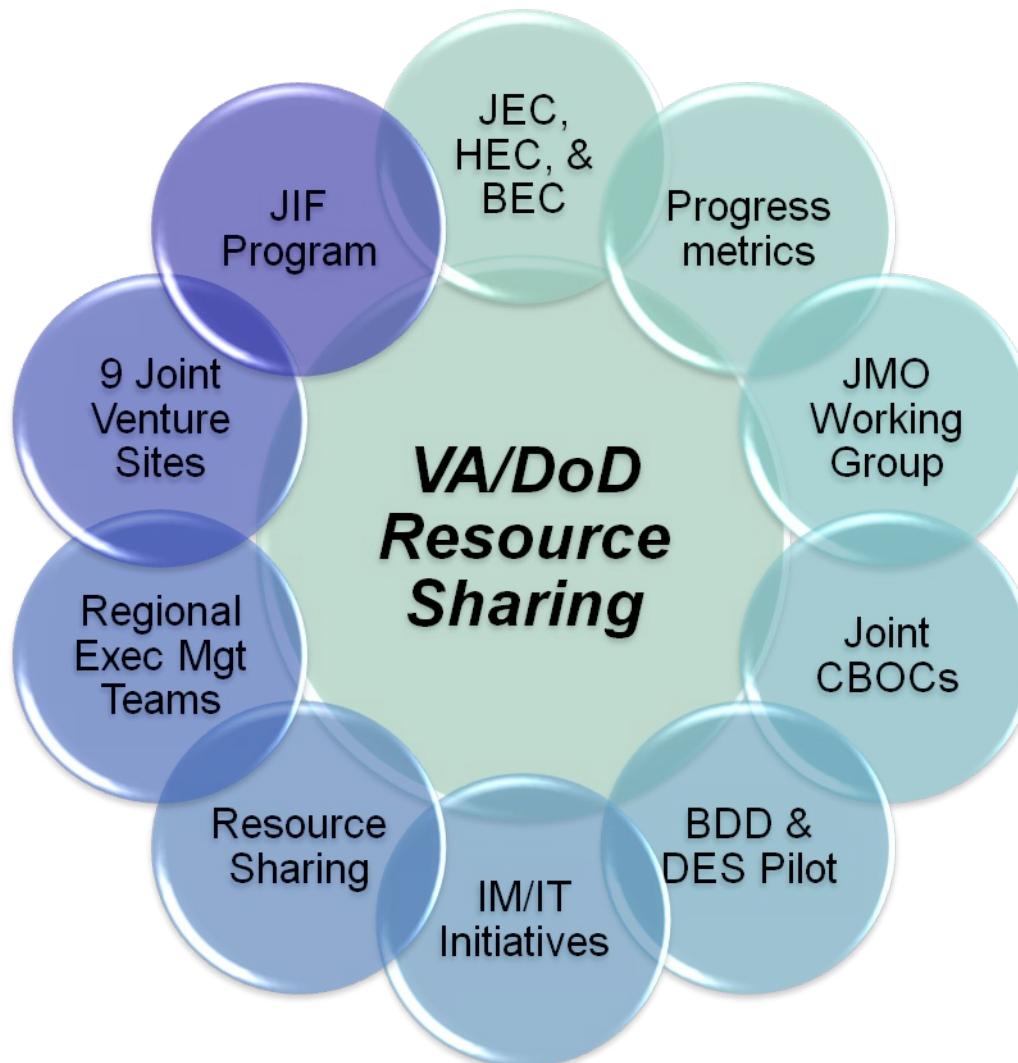
Overview

- **Commanders Perspective**
- **Program Alignment and Metrics**
- **AFI 41-126**
- **Infants Born to VA Beneficiaries**
- **Benefits Delivery at Discharge**
- **DES Pilot**
- **IM/IT - Relative to JIF & Sharing Agreements**
- **Best Practices**
- **Common Issues & Barriers to Sharing**
- **Master Sharing Agreement**
- **BCA/CCA/RCA**
- **AF Approval Process for Sharing Agreements**



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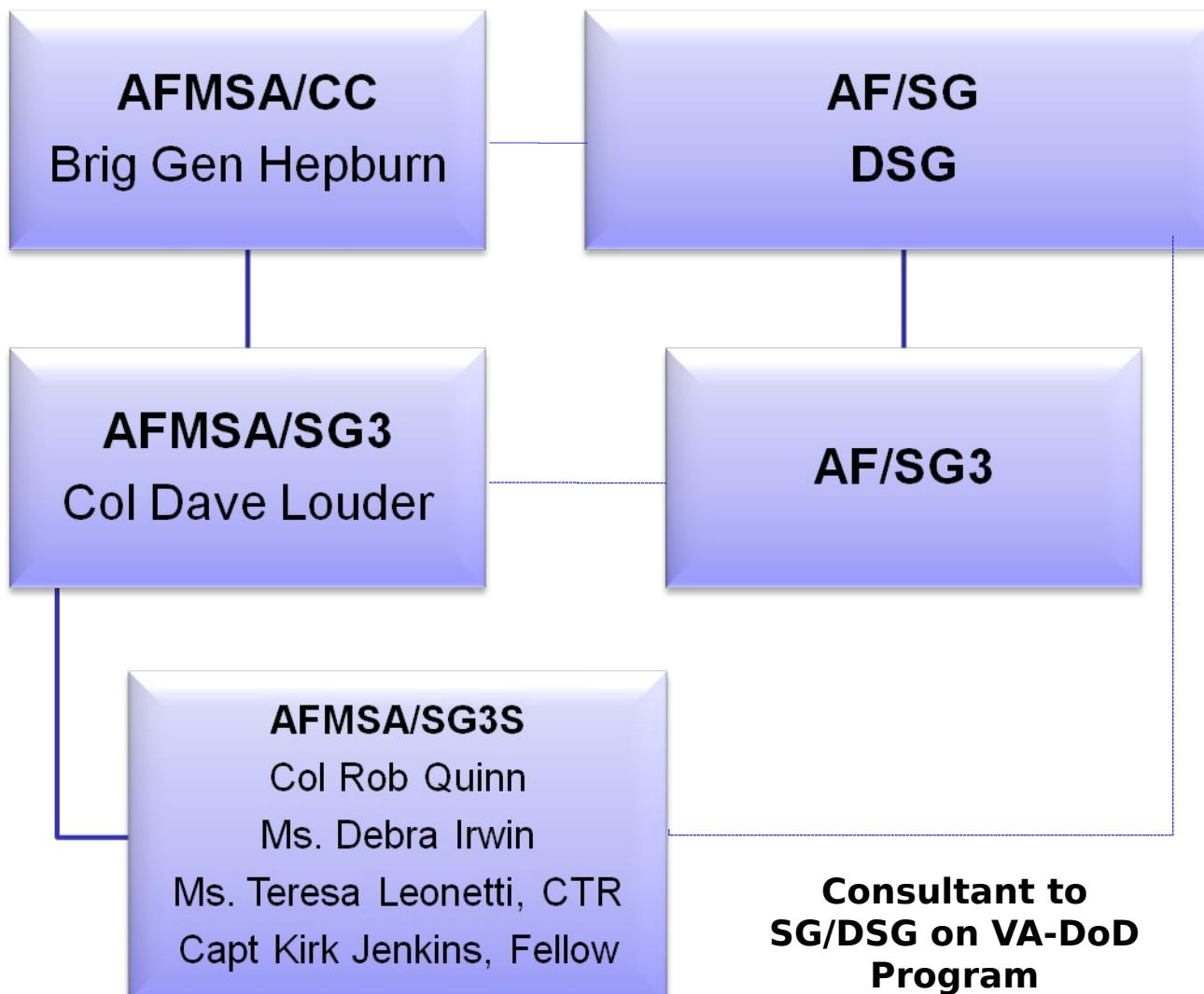
VA/DoD Initiatives





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AF/SG Alignment & Staff





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VA/DoD Program

■ Sharing Agreements:

- The AFMS has 80 active sharing agreements with the VA. Many of these agreements are large, master sharing agreements that encompass multiple service lines. This does not include AF Guard & Reserve

■ Joint Incentive Fund (JIF):

- The AF has had 36 JIF projects funded since FY04

Over \$70M in funding received for AF/VA Joint Initiatives





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VA/DoD Program

■ Joint Venture Sites:

- Elmendorf AFB/Anchorage VAMROC
- David Grant Medical Center (Travis AFB)/VA Northern California Health Care System
- Keesler AFB Medical Center/VA Gulf Coast Veteran Health Care System
- Kirtland AFB/Albuquerque VAMC
- Mike O' Callaghan Federal Hospital; Nellis AFB/VA Southern Nevada Health Care System



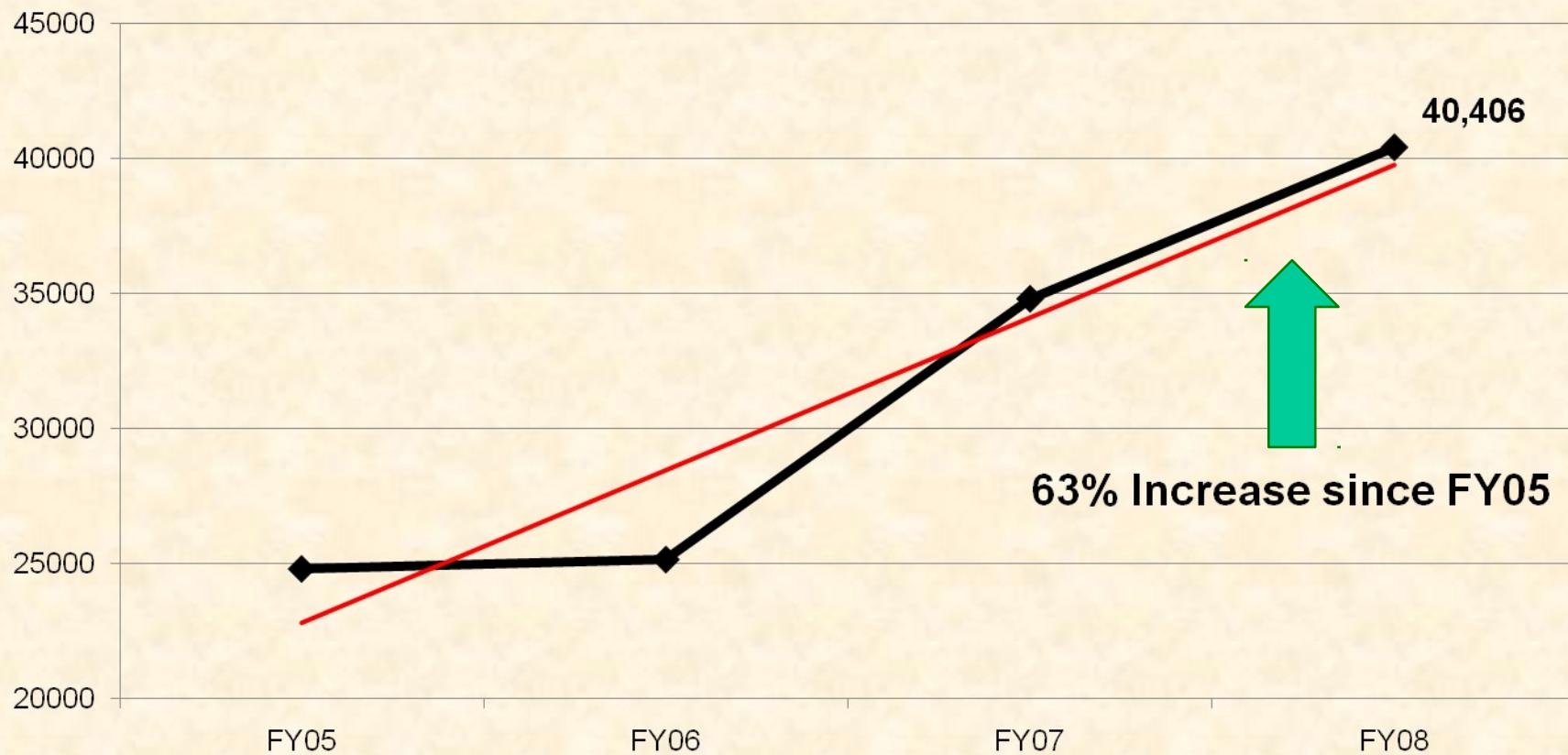


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Program Metrics: Outpatient K61

Encounters

Outpatient K61 Encounters
(K61 is VA Patient Category)

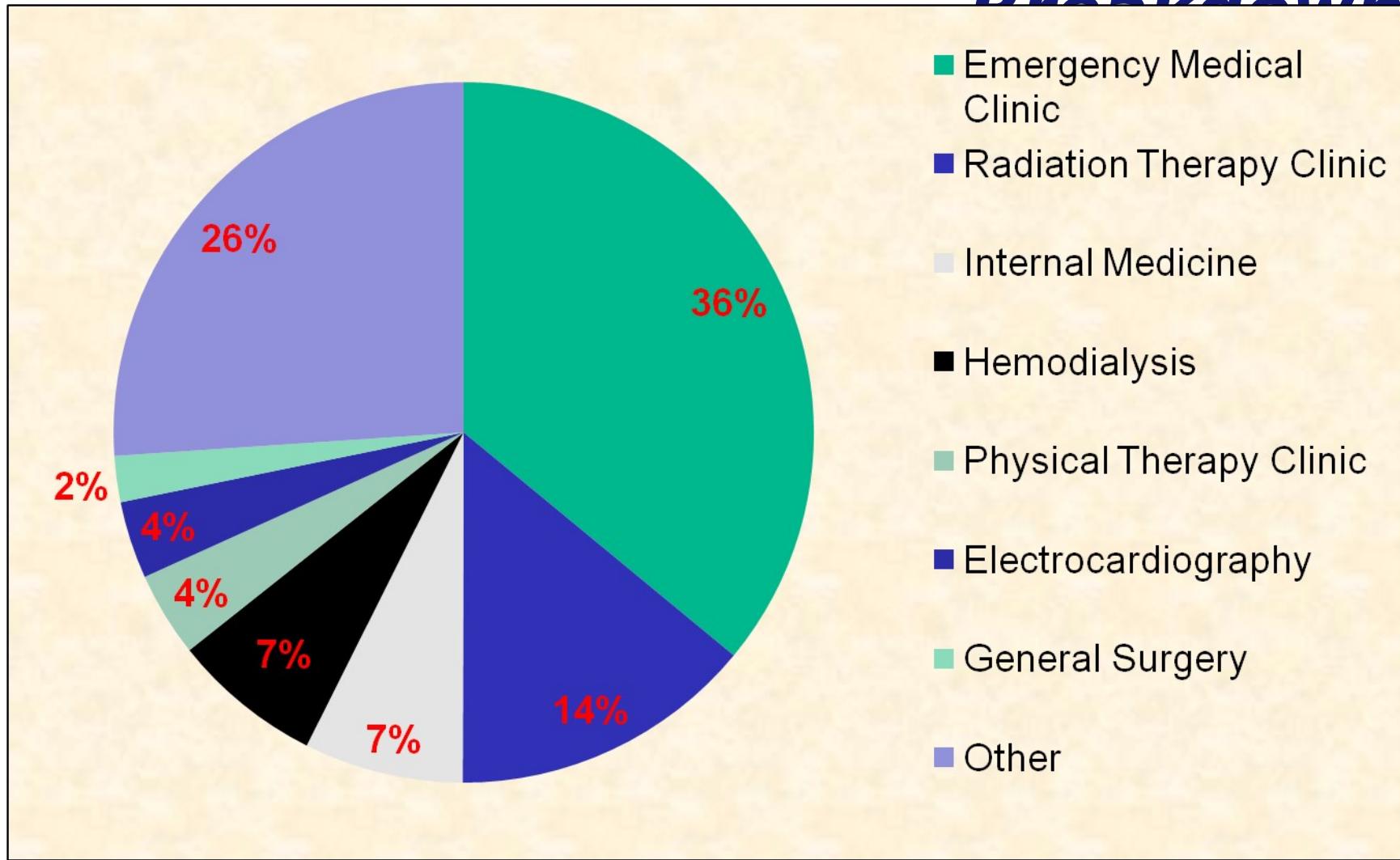




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Program Metrics: K61 Outpatient Service

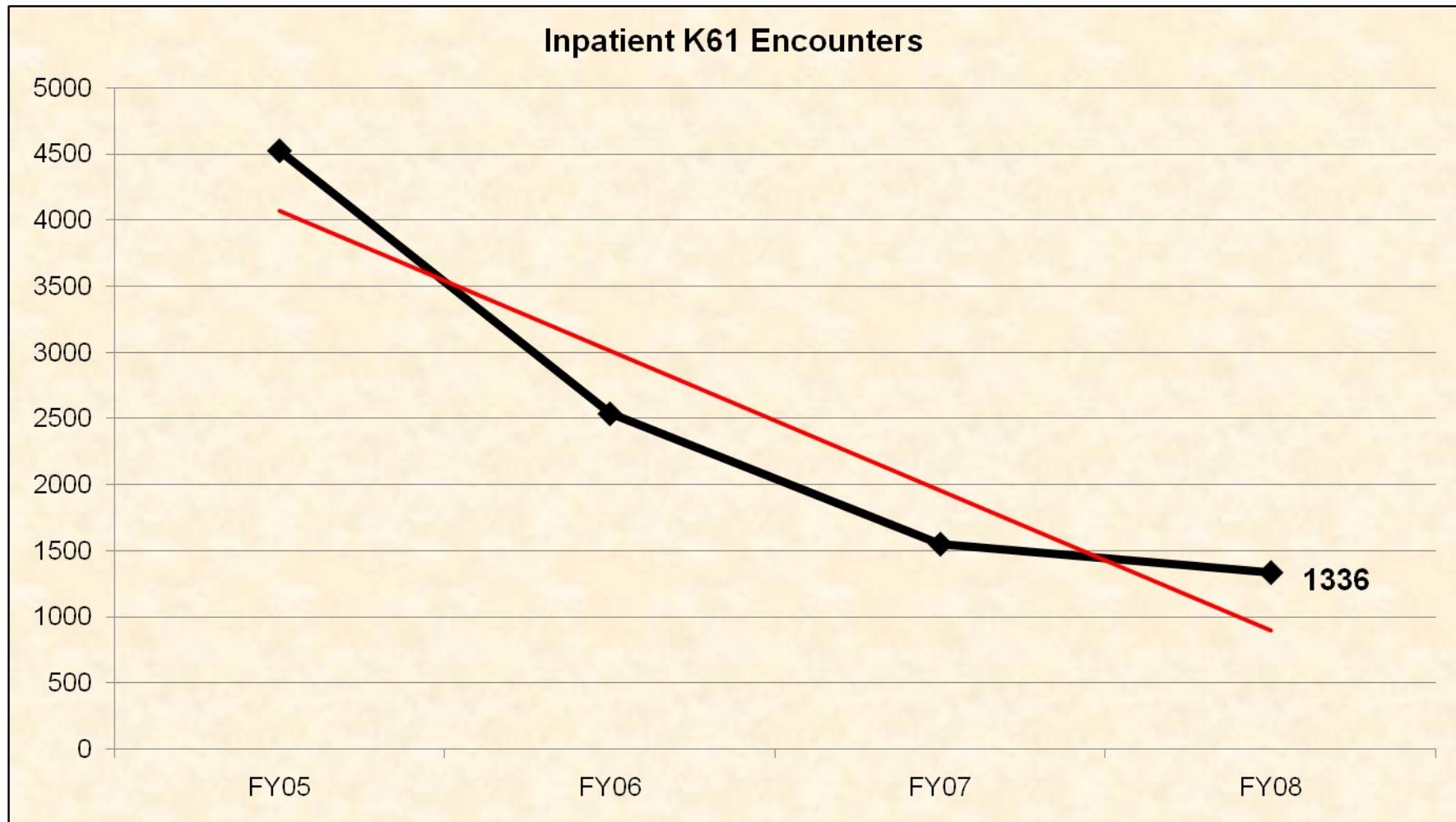
Breakdown





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Program Metrics: *Inpatient K61 Encounters*

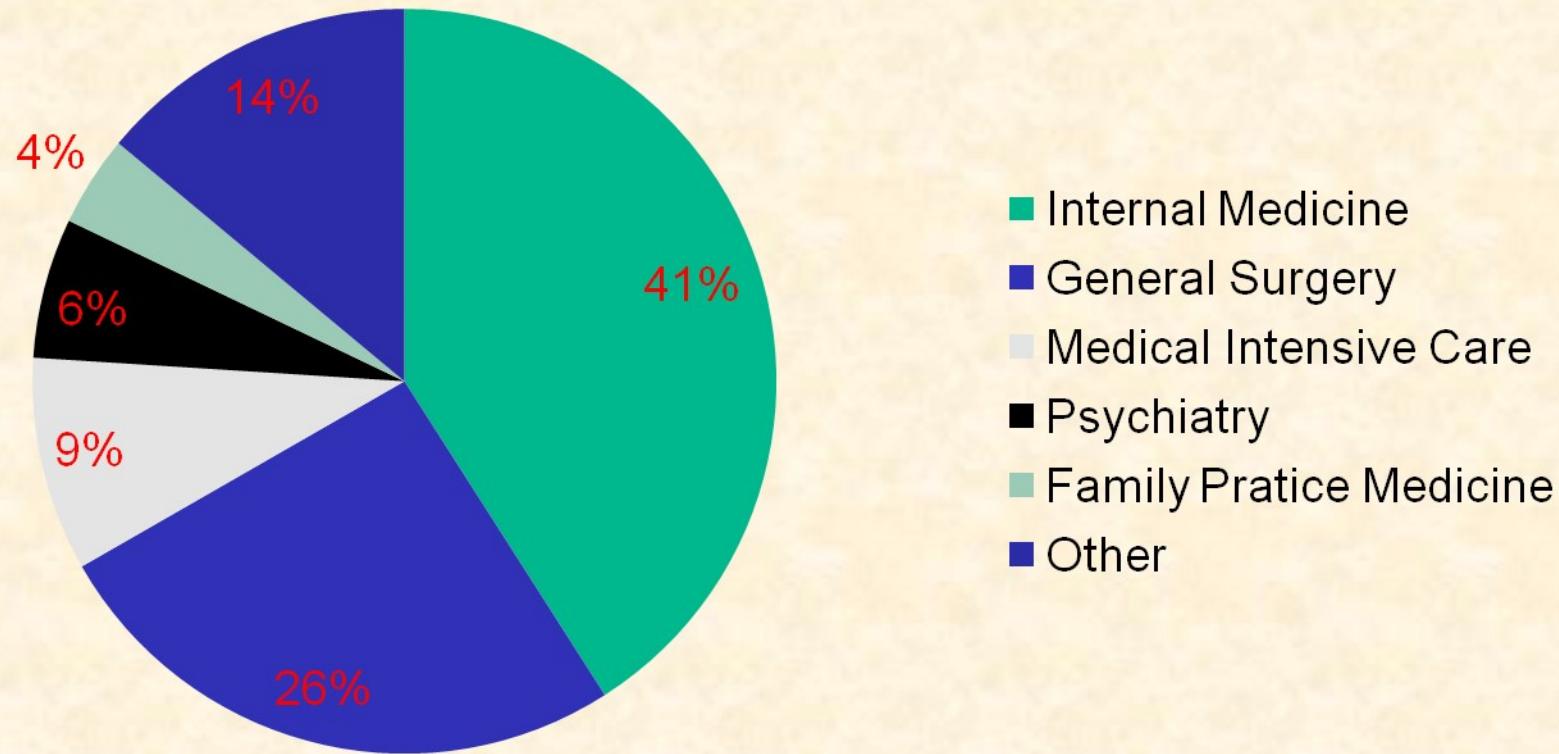




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Program Metrics: K61 Inpatient Service Breakdown

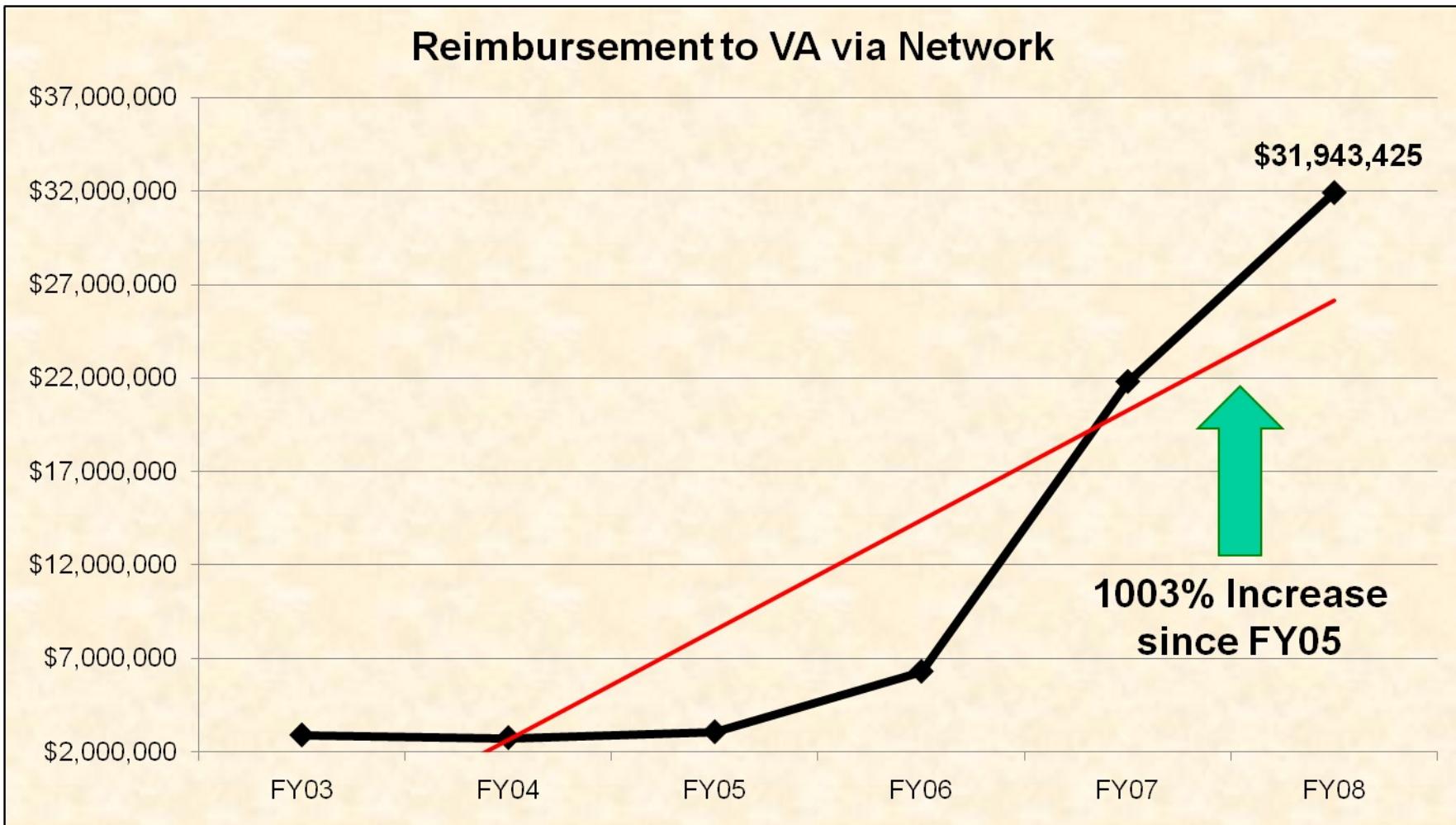
K61 Inpatient Service Breakdown





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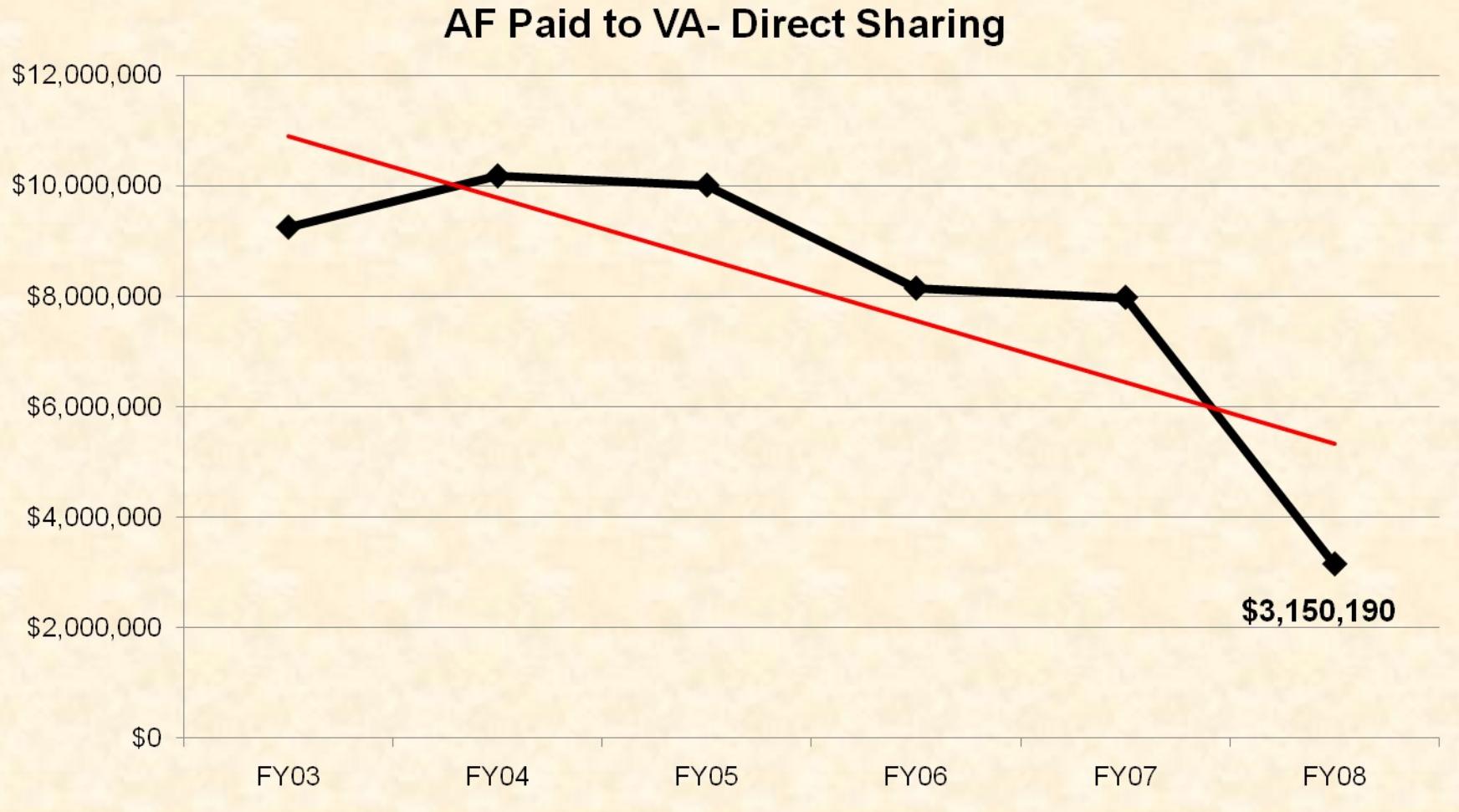
Program Metrics: VA as Network Provider





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Program Metrics: AF paid to VA- Direct Sharing





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Program Metrics: VA paid to AF- Direct Sharing

VA Paid to AF- Direct Sharing Agreements





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AFI 41-126

- Primary reference for VA/DoD sharing guidance
- Published 11 May 2007
- Requires revision to the following areas:
 - References to “MAJCOMs” will be changed to “AFMOA” or “AFMSA”
 - Section 2.2, Command Surgeons Office, will be changed and/or eliminated in total
 - Chapter 3 requires revision to routing requirements for all products
 - Section 3.4.4 - Meeting frequency & attendance requirements will change
 - Section 3.6 - Requires update based on program changes



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Infants of VA Beneficiaries

- **No sharing agreements for OB care allowed at this time**
 - **Issue - Newborn infant has no entitlement for care; no beneficiary status**
 - **Not an issue of reimbursement**
 - **Legal decision; need Title 10 and/or Title 38 changed**
- **VA requesting legislative change**
 - **Attempted this change before; no luck then**
 - **New emphasis on Veteran care; might facilitate success**



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Benefits Delivery at Discharge

- **Guidance found in “Cooperative Separation Exam MOA” signed by USD(P&R) & DEPSECVA 17 Nov 04 & AF/SG Policy & Implementation Guidance, 16 Jun 05**
- **Focuses on a cooperative process that eliminates redundancies and streamlines the transition process**
- **AD Service members - Apply for VA benefits 180 days prior to separation - Need copy of health treatment record**
- **DoD completes DD Form 2697, *Report of Medical Assessment*, provides copies of test results and any pertinent information, to the VBA Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) site**



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DES Pilot

- LoA 1 workgroup then designed and is currently executing a Pilot program to test an improved DES process that consolidates the disability systems of DoD and VA
- DES Pilot now at six AF MTFs:
 - Andrews
 - Elmendorf
 - MacDill
 - Nellis
 - Travis
 - Vance



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IM/IT - Relative to JIF & Sharing Agreements

- **Joint Incentive Fund**
 - Send draft proposal to AFMOA IM/IT staff prior to submission to see if it is a viable project
 - All proposed IM/IT solutions relative to enterprise systems must be approved by enterprise-level IM/IT managers
 - If disapproved, package does not get scored by FMWG
- **Sharing Agreements**
 - IM/IT systems are tools used daily; therefore, they must be reviewed for impacts when working a sharing agreement
 - Electronic data sharing...
 - Information assurance & security training
 - Cross-training on each other's systems



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Best Practices

- **Master Sharing Agreement**
- **Joint Training**
- **Joint Committees - Not just for Joint Ventures**
- **Joint Community Based Outpatient Clinics**
- **Staffing requirements**
- **Expanded radiology hours; VA provides staff**
- **Alternate Medical Facility - Contingency care**
- **Telemedicine**
- **Treatment & admissions based on patient need...both DoD & VA**
- **Capitalizing on VA nursing experience with joint staffing and/or nurse rotation**



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Common Issues & Barriers

- **Disparate IT Health Record Systems**
- **Manual business processes for reimbursements**
- **Dual credentialing requirements**
- **Disparate missions; readiness requirements**
- **Changes in leadership**
- **Perceived lack of resolve and commitment**
- **Parochialism, concern for loss of turf and control**
- **Attitude that sharing should be financially profitable**
- **Differences in expectation for timeliness & access**
- **Differences in eligibility criteria of beneficiaries**
- **Patients with dual eligibility**
- **Differences in hiring practices (Title 38)**
- **Effects of military deployments on staffing**



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Master Sharing Agreements

- Master Sharing Agreements are efficient sharing documents if...
 - You have multiple clinical services you want to share
 - You are using the same reimbursement methodology for each type of service; e.g., inpatient care, specialty clinics, etc.
- Master Sharing Agreements must contain the same information that is required for single agreements
 - Must identify what will be shared with an estimate of how many visits, bed days, etc.
 - Must include all mandatory statements
 - Must include reimbursement methodologies
 - Must provide sufficient clarity in the billing / reimbursement guidance to facilitate audits
 - Must include VA Form 10-1245c, MOU, and BCA/CCA/RCA



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Master Sharing Agreements

- May include appendices with details for each shared area
 - Easy to make changes
 - Management operation plans
 - Not the MOU; no reimbursement information
- Business Case Analysis with Master Sharing Agreements
 - Yes...it must be done and it must include all services
 - Keep it simple... one BCA/CCA/RCA for all covered services
 - Use the comments section to explain your methodology for both costs and benefits by shared service
- All sharing agreements can be made for up to 5 years



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BCA/CCA/RCA

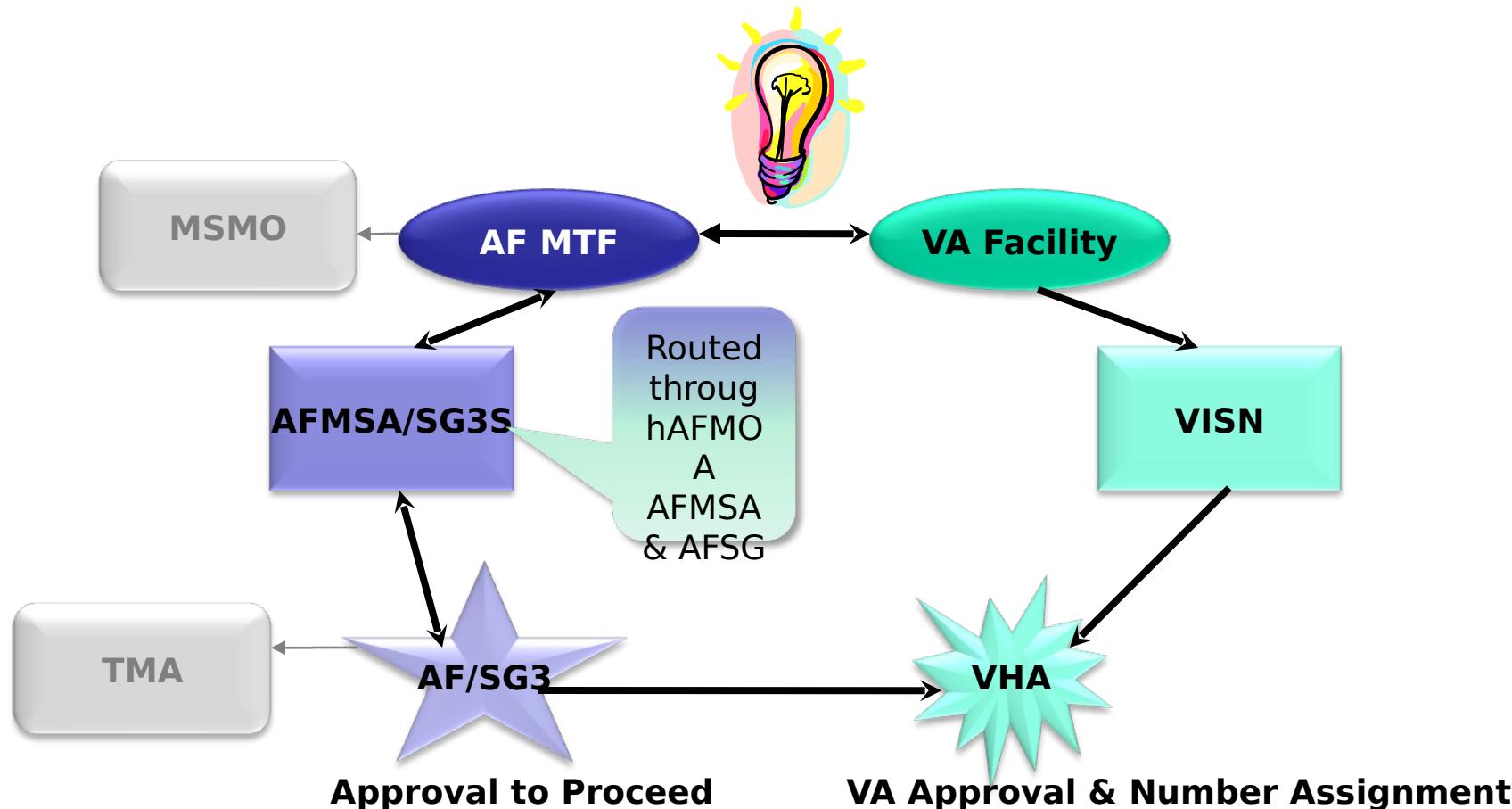
- **Required with all new and amended agreements**
- **BCA is the same format as is used in the JIF Program**
- **Currency and Readiness Case Analyses are simple to complete**
 - **Question & Answer format**
 - **Explanations required for some responses**
- **Benefits should exceed costs; if not...emphasize the intangible benefits on the comments page**
- **Bartered agreement? Yes...The BCA/CCA/RCA is required!**
- **All applicable sections must be completed accurately**
 - **Remember to include MTF Name & start date on cost work sheet**
 - **Update the locality information above Personnel costs**



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Approval Process for Sharing Agreements

Agreement Approval Process





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Air Force/VA Resource Sharing Program Website

<https://kx.afms.mil/dodvasharing>